

TAKAHASHI et al. - 10/602,690
Attorney Docket: 008378/0303622

- §1.116 AMENDMENT -

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (*Currently Amended*) A seal for an endless track of a construction vehicle to be mounted between a bushing and a bottom surface of a counter bore of a link of said endless ~~track~~ track, said seal comprising:

an axis wherein said seal is annular about said axis;

a cross section having a centerline parallel to said axis of said seal and a configuration symmetric with respect to said centerline;

an elastically deformably configured portion having a cross section like alphabetical letter X and being elastically deformed when compressed in an axial direction of said seal; and

a protrusion extending from an intersection of legs of said letter X only in a bushing-side direction farther than a plane connecting bushing-side end portions of the legs of said letter X;

a vacant gap portion disposed directly opposite to said protrusion, said vacant gap portion configured to collapse when compressed in the axial direction of said seal;
and

an embedding portion embedded in an entire portion of a space between said legs of said letter X, on a bushing-side of said intersection of said legs of said letter X and on an intersection-side of said plane connecting bushing-side end portions of the legs of said letter X, with a seal material.

wherein said protrusion has an end surface parallel to said plane connecting bushing-side end portions of the legs of said letter X and said protrusion contacts said bushing at said end surface to provide a sealing surface when said seal is mounted to said endless track.

2. -3. (*Cancelled*).

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4. (*Original*) A seal according to claim 1, wherein the seal includes an elastomer.

5. (*Original*) A seal according to claim 1, wherein the seal has a generally X-shaped cross-section.

6. (*Currently Amended*) A seal for an endless track of a construction vehicle, the seal being mounted to the endless track and being elastically deformable along an axial direction of the seal into a compressed state, the seal comprising:

right and left bushing-side portion of legs extending in a direction toward a bushing and outwardly away from one another;

right and left opposite bushing-side portions of the legs extending in a direction away from the bushing and outwardly away from one another; and

a protrusion extending from an intersection of the legs only in a bushing-side direction farther than a plane connecting bushing-side end portions of the right and left bushing-side portions of the legs, said protrusion having an end surface parallel to said plane such that said end surface contacts said bushing to provide a sealing surface when said seal is mounted to said endless track;

a vacant gap portion disposed directly opposite to said protrusion,

wherein the right and left bushing-side portion of the legs are moved to be adjacent the right and left opposite bushing-side portions of the legs, respectively, and said vacant gap portion collapses when the seal is elastically deformed in the compressed state thereof.

7. (*Original*) A seal according to claim 6, further comprising an elastically deformably configured portion having a cross section like alphabetical letter X and being elastically deformed when compressed in an axial direction of said seal when said seal is in the compressed state thereof.

8. (*Cancelled*).

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9. (*Original*) A seal according to claim 6, further comprising an embedding portion embedded in a space between right and left bushing-side portions of the legs, on a bushing-side of said intersection of the legs and on an intersection-side of said plane connecting bushing-side end portions of the right and left bushing-side portions of the legs, with a seal material.

10. (*Original*) A seal according to claim 6, wherein the seal includes an elastomer.

11. (*Original*) A seal according to claim 6, wherein the right and left bushing-side portions of the legs and the right and left opposite bushing-side portions of the legs are constructed and arranged such that the seal has a generally X-shaped cross-section when the seal is in the free, uncompressed state thereof.